

HOUSE No. 4923

Section 324 contained in the engrossed Bill making appropriations for the fiscal year 2005 (see House, No. 4850), which had been returned by His Excellency the Governor with recommendation of amendment (for message, see Attachment X of House, No. 4901). June 28, 2004.

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Four

An Act relative to the reporting and liability of the chief and district medical examiners.

***Whereas,* The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to certain reports by the chief and district medical examiners , therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the chief medical examiner established pursuant to chapter 38 of the General Laws or any district medical examiner's appointed pursuant to said chapter shall provide health care providers with timely autopsy information on patients who expire in their care for the purposes of quality assurance and improvement; provided that, the chief medical examiner or any

district medical examiner shall not be required to submit said information if there is a law enforcement investigation of the death; and provided further that, any information transferred complies with all state and federal privacy laws.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect as of July 1, 2004.